

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today released the following statement on House passage of the FY2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill:

“As the debate over the last few days has shown us, drastic cuts are just as irresponsible as reckless spending. As our nation continues to suffer from the lingering effects of the worst economic down turn since the Great Depression, this bill forces us to turn our back on struggling farmers and young mothers and children, at the time they are most in need of a helping hand.

Although the bill was improved with amendments to restore some critical funding, this Agriculture Appropriations bill still falls short of funding the USDA, FDA and CFTC at the levels needed to protect our food supply, financial markets, and innovation in the medical field. By funding 23% below the President Obama’s request, this bill also cuts from conservation programs that are protecting our communities’ water quality and natural resources.

In addition, as our nation continues engaged in military interventions, this bill takes the short sided step of cutting foreign food assistance that look past the sword to secure long-term peace and security at home at around the world.

We all understand that we have an obligation to get our fiscal house in order, but doing so at the expense of job growth and on the backs of the neediest is not the way to do it.”

Congressman Sam Farr is the Ranking Member of the Appropriations’ Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies.